

Boy Scouts and the Department of Defense have built over the years.

The Boy Scouts and the Department of Defense have enjoyed a unique relationship with many former Scouts joining the ranks of our nation's military. The Pentagon's recent agreement threatens this unique relationship of two organizations dedicated to one important objective: service to God and country.

I would remind my colleagues that Boy Scouts are not the only people who swear an oath to God. The fact is that our own service men and women take a similar oath before God at the beginning of their service, and I will not support any action or agreement which attempts to endanger a partnership which clearly benefits both organizations. I urge the Pentagon to reconsider its decision and to continue to support the Boy Scouts of America.

#### HONORING MARGARET HASSAN

### HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 24, 2004*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and reflection that I rise today to honor Mrs. Margaret Hassan—a friend of the international community and a true humanitarian.

Mrs. Hassan worked in humanitarian relief in Baghdad for more than 25 years, the last 12 for CARE International as CARE Iraq's country director. She was a British citizen from an Irish family—but her husband Tahseen and her friends would attest that she was an Iraqi through-and-through. She loved the country, the people and the challenge. While others would leave, her hard work never wavered. "I'm staying with my people," she was quoted as saying. "This is my home."

I had the unique experience of talking with Mrs. Hassan about the challenges and difficulties facing the Iraqi people. We spoke at length about the people, the security and the future. While she expressed concern about the safety of the Iraqi people, she maintained a sense of optimism for the future of her adopted home. She was determined to continue her work, and her personality, courage and compassion kept her spirits high, even in the darkest of hours.

In October, the Times of London described her resiliency and courage in the face of the utmost danger. They wrote, "Even at the height of the air raids on Baghdad, she would travel around government departments in the city offering assistance to local officials who had helped her in the past and lobbying them to ensure that fresh water was available in the main hospitals" (Times Newspapers, 10/20/04). She was always working for the betterment of the Iraqi people, even when it threatened her own personal safety.

In her death, the Iraqi people have lost a hero, and the world has lost a true friend. My thoughts and prayers are with her husband, her family, her friends and the Iraqi people.

#### CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4818, CONSOLIDATED TIONS ACT, 2005

SPEECH OF

### HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Saturday, November 20, 2004*

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose H.R. 4818, the omnibus appropriations bill for fiscal year 2005. This \$388.4 billion catchall federal spending bill represents the skewed budget priorities under which the Republican House Leadership has been operating. It puts special interest priorities before the public trust and severely underfunds critical programs.

H.R. 4818 is an exclamation point on a year-long spending spree by Congress at the expense of taxpayers and future generations. Taxpayers are picking up the tab on gratuitous government spending, while essential programs are shortchanged; the bill falls short of its commitment to the No Child Left Behind program by \$9.4 billion, freezes the maximum Pell Grant for the second year in a row, and shortchanges funding for veterans' benefits and rural conservation initiatives.

Additionally, the credibility of the legislative process was compromised, as appropriators of the majority party defied procedural methods to rework the bill exactly to their liking, not to mention the liking of the White House. Appropriators handily struck backroom deals to make the following changes: to exclude a measure to allow the reimportation of prescription drugs; to override a House-passed provision to protect overtime benefits to six million employees; and to change bicameral recommendations on federal outsourcing and travel and trade relations with Cuba.

Also, it concerns me that just last week we had to raise the debt limit for the third time in the past several years to an astounding \$8.2 trillion. Moreover, it worries me that we had to raise the debt limit because of irresponsible fiscal policy such as giving tax cuts to the Nation's millionaires while our country is fighting a war overseas and my home State of Wisconsin is hemorrhaging manufacturing jobs.

The proponents of the fiscal year 2005 Omnibus have touted it as a package of real programs that benefit real people. This bill is an insult to the principles of this democratic body, and what I want to know is when the special interest spending spree will cease and real people will again be the priority.

We need to start making decisions that will leave our children a better country to inherit. As the father of two little boys, I did not come to Congress to leave my sons a legacy of debt, hurt economic growth, and make this country more dependent on foreign nations, who are currently the largest holders of our debt. By 2014, American families will pay an additional \$9,400 in interest on the national debt. That same year, the Social Security Trust Fund will be completely depleted if this Congress's reckless fiscal policies continue unchecked.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose the fiscal year 2005 omnibus bill. I cannot in good faith support such fiscal recklessness because there is no plan to restore fiscal responsibility in the future as we rapidly approach the Baby Boom generation's impending retirement. The American people deserve no less than a gov-

ernment that applies the same fiscal responsibility that any hard-working American family would in crafting a household budget.

#### A TRIBUTE TO JOELLE BAILEY

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 24, 2004*

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Joelle Bailey for her accomplishments in the field of business and efforts to improve the manners of all people in our community.

Joelle has over 20 years experience in catering, event planning and the restaurant business. Little did she know that a position at Essence Magazine would serve as the impetus for her to enter the food and hospitality industry. At a very young age, Joelle's mom Marie felt very strongly about manners and etiquette and instilled those values in Joelle and her sister Yves. Joelle has taken these values and turned them into a lifetime mission not only for herself but to assist and instruct others in these areas.

Joelle has learned through some of the best working positions at the Vista Hilton, Marriott and Plaza Hotels and LSG Sky Chefs. She received her formal training at the French Culinary Institute and Sky Chefs. By 1994, she opened Classic Catering which is a full service event planning and catering business that caught the attention of the New York Times, Daily News, NY Post, 98.7 KISS FM and WOR 710. In June 2004, Joelle was featured in the Daily News' "Spotlight On Great People" by Clem Richardson. Publicity aside, Joelle is pleased that her clients and guests approve of her fabulous catering and cooking skills. Currently, Joelle writes several columns, sharing her knowledge on entertaining, etiquette and menu and recipe suggestions. Some of Joelle's most memorable clients have included: The New York Urban League, Diana Ross, Mt. Sinai Hospital, Russell Simmons, Suzanne Taylor, The United Way, Bill Cosby, Children's Television Network, Jackie Robinson Foundation, New York Bar Association, New York University, Columbia University and many more.

Joelle shares her love for young people by teaching courses in the art of etiquette, table manners, sophistication, food, nutrition and basic "101" cooking skills. She teaches these classes for the community in different schools and also in her home. Each event is sponsored with her own personal finances. Adults are welcome as well. Additionally, her very own etiquette/cookbook will be launched next year and a food show is in the works.

On her son Issiah's 3rd birthday March 27, 2004 Joelle launched a not-for-profit foundation called Issiah W. Simms Foundation to help children improve their etiquette and manners. Eight years ago, Joelle realized that she was not satisfied with the etiquette and manners of today's children, teens and even adults. For her, there was a major state of emergency existing in society that needed to be addressed. This concern led her to form the Issiah W. Simms Foundation.

Joelle is fortunate to have wonderful and insightful parents Hubert and Marie Valbrun, mentors (stepmother, Rosette Wayne), teachers and friends who are supportive of her